

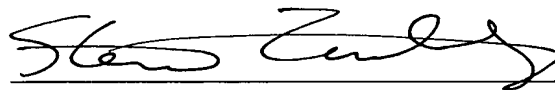
Applicants: Claus et al.  
Preliminary Amendment  
Amdt. dated December 29, 2004

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In this Preliminary Amendment, U.S. format headings have been introduced into the specification and the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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